541 The favorite sport occasions among the
517 farmers are horse races, at which the horses are not ridden but are harnessed before small light carriages. Finnish represent a fairly small and gracefully built variety which is
363 especially good for long distance running. However, for practical use, even in the country horses are being replaced by cars and trucks, and in the cities they are becoming a curiosity, the bicycle is now as indispensable in summer time as skiis are during the winter.

517 In addition to sports, music is a popular form
533 of recreation, in rural areas as well as in cities. Almost every village has a choir, and in summer singers from every part of the country gather for large music festivals.

517 Theater is also very popular among the Finns.
545 Professional theaters exist in all the cities and

517 other densely populated areas, and almost every
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rural community has an amateur company whose performances sometimes are surprisingly
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polished and skilled. In 1951-52 there were 33
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government-subsidized professional theaters, 3 of them performing in Swedish, and 73 workers' amateur companies and 2400 groups of actors giving regular performances under
546 the sponsorship of different societies. During the same season there were 505 motion picture theaters, about one-tenth of them in Helsinki.
517 Handicraft and reading are still considered a good way to spend long winter evenings, not to speak of radio-listening, which during the last few decades has become a very important source of entertainment as well as of information.

527 Special holidays are observed in both rural and urban areas. The most important among

533 considered "out of fashion." Jazz music is not popular in Finland except among a few university and high school students, while the common people favor a kind of "hillbilly music." However, the Finns are extremely interested in choir singing, and thus become acquainted with better vocal music.

536 Dramatic Arts. The interest shown by the
545 Finns in dramatic art, if one considers the number of theaters and acting companies in proportion to the size of the population, may be adjudged very great. Actors and authors also often give public readings of poetry and prose pieces, and, as a rule, these occasions
546 are well attended. The products of the Finnish film industry are almost entirely limited to